



# COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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## **STUDENTS AT SAN PASQUAL ACADEMY TO GRADUATE JUNE 22**

*Nearly Half of This Year's Graduates Have Been Accepted to Four-Year Universities*

Twenty-three students of the San Pasqual Academy, San Diego County's first-in-the-nation residential education campus for foster youth, will receive their high school diplomas on June 22, 2006. The class of 2006 is the Academy's fifth graduating class.

The graduation ceremony is set for June 22 at 10 a.m. in the school gymnasium. The Academy is located at 17701 San Pasqual Valley Road, Escondido.

Eleven students have received acceptance letters to four-year universities, while other students await their notifications of acceptance. Several students have been accepted to more than one university, and many have received scholarships to assist them with their higher education.

"I couldn't be happier to celebrate the fifth class graduating from the San Pasqual Academy," said First District Supervisor Greg Cox. "These young people have created bright futures for themselves and I am thrilled to see all their achievements highlighted today at graduation."

Fourth District Supervisor Ron Roberts is also an enthusiastic supporter of the San Pasqual Academy. "I am so proud of our graduates, all of whom have overcome many obstacles to get to this special day. As foster children, they have certainly endured some dark days, but now because of their determination to succeed, it's time for them to take their rightful place in the sunlight."

The Academy opened in 2001 at the direction of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. The Academy gives its youth a well-rounded experience by providing education, work readiness training, independent living skills and a caring environment in which to succeed.

The facility is currently licensed for 135 foster youth.

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